



HANSON HOUSE, NORMANTON, WEST YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief





**HANSON HOUSE,
NORMANTON, WEST YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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Contents

Summary.....	iv
Acknowledgements.....	v
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 The Site, location and geology.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
2.1 Hanson House.....	1
2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations.....	2
3 METHODOLOGY.....	2
3.1 Aims and Scope.....	2
3.2 Watching Brief.....	2
3.3 Best Practice.....	2
3.4 Health and Safety.....	3
4 RESULTS.....	3
4.1 Introduction.....	3
4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence.....	3
4.3 Archaeological Features.....	3
4.4 Finds.....	3
5 DISCUSSION.....	3
5.1 Summary.....	3
6 ARCHIVE.....	4
6.1 Location and Deposition.....	4
6.2 Copyright.....	4
7 REFERENCES.....	4
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION.....	5
APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX.....	5

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Approximate location of watching brief area

Plates

Plate 1: General view of foundation trenches, looking north-east

Plate 2: Excavated garage foundation trench, looking north-west

**HANSON HOUSE,
NORMANTON, WEST YORKSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jones Homes (Northern) Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with housing development on 0.7 ha of land adjacent to Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire (NGR SE 38872 22451). The scheme of monitoring was required as a condition of planning consent granted by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (Planning Application reference 07/00704/FUL) and was undertaken in accordance with a Specification issued by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service. This report concerns the first stage of the watching brief, which comprised the observation of foundation trenches excavated for the first property to be constructed only: further stages of monitoring will be required in respect of construction of other properties on the Site.

The Site is situated immediately east of and adjacent to Hanson House, a complex of Grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the 16th century. Archaeological evaluation of land surrounding Hanson House (ARCUS 2008) revealed two ditches of likely medieval date. At the time of fieldwork the Site had been cleared for redevelopment, having previously been used as a builder's yard comprising extensive areas of modern concrete and tarmac paving in between 20th century warehouses and workshops.

The watching brief was undertaken on 12th April 2010. Excavation of foundation trenches occurred prior to an archaeologist visiting site: all excavated foundation trench sections were cleaned by hand and investigated for archaeological deposits. No features of archaeological interest were encountered within the monitored area and no artefacts were recovered.

Although the Site had been cleared for development and the foundation trenches excavated prior to archaeological attendance, the results of the watching brief nevertheless confirm the impression from previous evaluation of a low level of activity, with nothing to indicate domestic occupation of medieval or later date in the vicinity of the area observed. No further work is recommended in respect of this phase of the development.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 74350 and will be deposited in due course with the Wakefield Office of the West Yorkshire Archive Service.

**HANSON HOUSE,
NORMANTON, WEST YORKSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Jones Homes (Northern) Ltd. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Rebecca Mann of West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) for her help and guidance during the project.

This report was researched and compiled by Chris Harrison, who also undertook the fieldwork. The illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Oliver Jessop.

HANSON HOUSE, NORMANTON, WEST YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jones Homes (Northern) Ltd ('the Client') to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring ('the watching brief') during groundworks associated with housing development on land adjacent to Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire ('the Site'). The monitoring was required as a condition of planning consent granted by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council (Planning Application reference 07/00704/FUL) and was undertaken in accordance with a Specification issued by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS 2008) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

1.1.2 This report concerns the first stage of the watching brief, which comprised the observation of foundation trenches excavated for the first property to be constructed only: further stages of monitoring will be required in respect of construction of other properties on the Site. Fieldwork was undertaken on 12th April 2010.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site, centred on NGR SE 38872 22451, covers approximately 0.7 hectares situated on the south-west side of Snydale Road, just to the south of the centre of the village of Normanton (**Figure 1**). The Site is bounded to the north and south by residential development and to the west by Hanson House. The underlying drift geology comprises Coal Measures sandstones and shales (British Geological Survey Sheet 78).

1.2.2 At the time of fieldwork the Site had been cleared for redevelopment. The Site had previously been used as a builder's yard, comprising extensive areas of modern concrete and tarmac paving between 20th century warehouses and workshops.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Hanson House

2.1.1 The Site is situated immediately to the east of and adjacent to Hanson House, a complex of Grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the 16th century. Hanson House itself is a stone and timber framed building of two builds. An 18th century farmhouse is attached to a stone and timber framed building of 16th century or earlier date. A further stone built rectangular building of unknown function (possibly a barn) lies immediately south of the earlier section of Hanson House. Recent dendrochronological analysis of timbers from the buildings has provided dates of AD 1455/6 (barn) and AD 1448 (house).

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

2.2.1 In 2008 a scheme of building recording investigated the Listed structures adjacent to the Site prior to the conversion of Hanson House and an associated building to form three dwellings (ARCUS 2008a). Ten evaluation trenches were subsequently excavated to investigate the land surrounding Hanson House (ARCUS 2008b). Only two of the evaluation trenches revealed features of archaeological interest, to the north (Trench 5) and east (Trench 8) of the listed stone-built rectangular (barn) building. Two separate ditch features were identified, one of which contained three sherds of medieval pottery. The evidence from the evaluation suggests limited activity during the medieval period, probably related to agricultural or domestic enclosures.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Scope

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to identify any archaeological remains;
- to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the ground works;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeology encountered;
- to provide information to enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional and national context;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report on any archaeological finds and features disturbed by the site works; and
- to assess the state of survival of any archaeological features and address the means by which they should be investigated.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff on 12th April 2010. Excavation of foundation trenches for the single property to be developed at this stage occurred prior to an archaeologist visiting site. All excavated sections were cleaned by hand and inspected for the presence of archaeological deposits. All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a photographic record.

3.3 Best Practice

3.3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with current industry best practice and Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a) and English Heritage (2006) guidelines.

3.4 Health and Safety

- 3.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, *Health and safety in field archaeology* (SCAUM 2007) and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive. Observed contexts are tabulated as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 4.2.1 Foundation trenches (**Plates 1 and 2**) were excavated through dark grey silt topsoil, varying from 0.23-0.56m in depth. Topsoil overlay mid grey-brown silty sand subsoil 0.47m in depth. Natural was uncovered below the subsoil (at 1.03m below ground level), comprising a yellowish-brown sandstone. A summary of individual contexts recorded can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 Archaeological Features

- 4.3.1 No archaeological features of interest were encountered within the monitored area.

4.4 Finds

- 4.4.1 No artefacts were recovered from within the monitored areas.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 Previous archaeological evaluation trenching around Hanson House identified few archaeological remains, consistent with medieval agricultural activity (ARCUS 2008). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered. Although the Site had been cleared for development and the foundation trenches excavated prior to archaeological attendance, the results nevertheless tend to confirm the impression from the previous evaluation trenching of a low level of activity, with nothing to indicate domestic occupation of medieval or later date in the vicinity of the area observed.
- 5.1.2 No further work is recommended in respect of this phase of the development. Further attendance will be required during subsequent stages of development on the Site.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Location and Deposition

6.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991) and *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **74350**. The full list of the contents of this archive is detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report. It is proposed that the archive will be deposited in due course with the Wakefield Office of the West Yorkshire Archive Service.

6.2 Copyright

6.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

7 REFERENCES

Archaeological archives forum 2007 *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

ARCUS 2008a Hanson House, Normanton: Building recording *Unpublished Client Report 1198a*

ARCUS 2008b Hanson House, Normanton: Evaluation Report *Unpublished Client Report 1198b*

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (2nd ed.) London; English Heritage.

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. London; English Heritage.

Institute for Archaeologists 2008a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

SCAUM 2007 *Health and safety in field archaeology*, London; Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

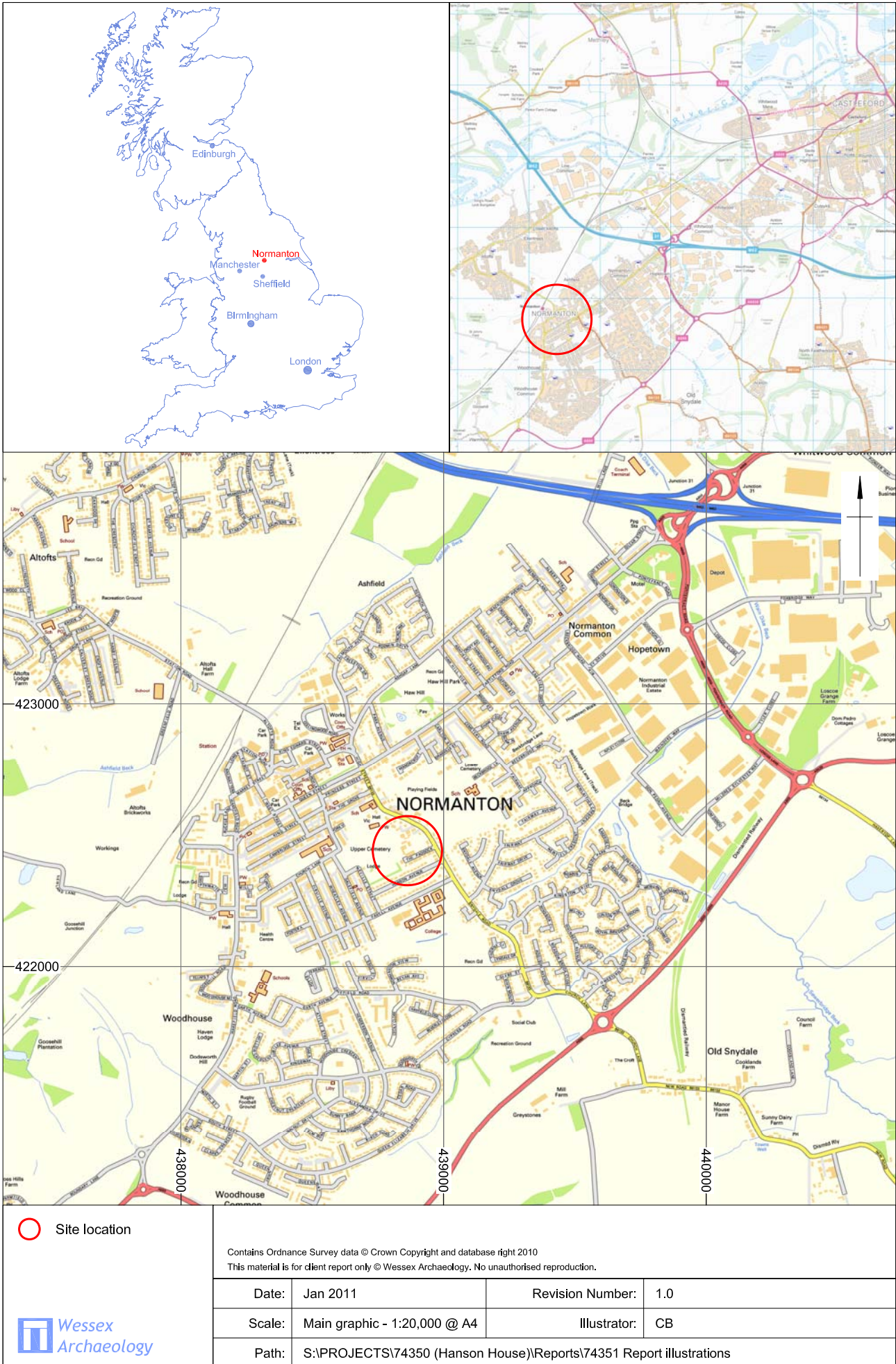
WYAAS 2008 *Specification for an Archaeological watching Brief*, Hanson House, Snyderdale Road, Normanton

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Area/Trench/Trial Hole			
Depth in meters bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation
0.00-0.23/0.56	Topsoil	Dark grey silt	Topsoil
0.23/0.56-1.03	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty sand	Subsoil
1.03	Natural	Mid yellowish-brown sandstone	Natural

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

Paper archive			
Folder no.	Folder type	Item(s)	No.
1	A4 ring binder	Risk Assessment	0
		Day Register	0
		Day Book (copied)	0
		Test Pit/Trial Trench Record	1
		Photographic Record	1
		Colour slides	0
		Contact sheets	0
		Bound copy of final report	1



Site location

Figure 1



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Approximate location of watching brief area

Figure 2



Plate 1: General view of foundation trenches, looking north-east



Plate 2: Excavated garage foundation trench, looking north-west

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